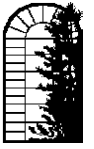


The Museum Insider



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Newsletter of the Friends of Michigan History

Spring/Summer 2002



Michigan Historical Museum docent Becky Noble works with two young visitors to build a ship, one of the hands-on activities kids will enjoy at the Summer Sizzles day camp.

History hot topic at Summer Sizzles day camp

No matter the weather outdoors, the sun always shines inside the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. For six weeks during the summer, kids put a bright light on their Michigan heritage during the Summer Sizzles day camp.

The day camp, sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History, is open to children aged 9 through 12.

"We're seeing kids come back for the third year in a row," says Summer Sizzles coordinator JoAnne Arasim of the Michigan Historical Museum education unit. "That is the best way to determine the success and impact of the program."

Kids enjoy the hands-on activities, discussions and museum tours that give them a unique perspective on Michigan's past. Parents like the camp's flexible schedule, affordability and unique education opportunities for their children.

This year's camp sessions have children talking with Tuskegee Airmen about World War II and meeting re-enactors who are passionate about the Civil War. A genealogist will get the kids started on tracing their family tree, while a professional writer will offer them tips on how to write history. Other investigations include the Underground Railroad, coins and 20th-century crafts—all taking place against the backdrop of the Michigan Historical Museum's exhibits.

Camps are now in progress but there are limited openings during July and August. Pre-registration is required and there is a nominal fee. Call (517) 373-1905 to ask about session availability and other details

More fun for kids and families!

The Michigan Historical Museum System brings you a summer season loaded with historical events and activities—some just for kids, others for the entire family. Look inside this issue for a system-wide calendar of events. It will be your guide to a summer of history and fun across the state, from the Copper Harbor Lighthouse to the Sanilac Petroglyphs. Or visit www.michiganhistory.org to check out our schedule on-line.





Courtesy ExhibitsUSA

Aprons: out of kitchen, into spotlight

More than cloth and thread, the apron is emotions and sensory memories. Close your eyes to picture an apron and, m-m-m, you can almost smell grandma's cookies baking in the oven.

A new special exhibit at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing tells us, however, that aprons were not always associated with women bustling in the kitchen.

The national touring exhibit, *Apron Strings: Ties to the Past*, opens July 5. More than 150 vintage and contemporary aprons will be featured.

"Until the late 19th century, most people—men, women and children—wore aprons to protect their clothing," says Jane McIntosh, the Michigan Historical Museum collections historian who played a lead role in bringing the exhibit here. "Cloth was very expensive and laundering was hard, backbreaking work."

Also appearing with the exhibit will be aprons vying for prizes in the Michigan Apron Challenge, sponsored by the museum and Country Stitches. The contest invited crafters to sew, knit or

crochet an apron displaying a patriotic, vintage or Michigan theme. Entries came in from across the country; winners will be announced at a special event in late July.

While *Apron Strings* runs in the first-floor gallery, visitors can enjoy other historic aprons throughout the museum. More than a dozen rarely seen aprons from the museum's collections now accent galleries on the second and third floors. These aprons help highlight changes in fabric, fashion, work and lifestyles.

Apron Strings closes August 18.

Also at the Museum

***Schooner in the Sand:
Uncovering the Secrets of a
Great Lakes Shipwreck***
through August 18, 2002

***Houdini: Magician Among
the Spirits***
opens September 21, 2002

From the Museum Director

Phil Kwiatkowski

Many of you have heard that the state has offered an early retirement program to assist with the budget concerns. Every department within state government will be affected, including the Michigan Historical Museum System. Four of our valuable staff elected this option.

Bob Buetler, a maintenance mechanic, will be leaving the museum July 1. Bob has worked behind the scenes throughout the museum system, repairing buildings and exhibits. He is an expert when it comes to figuring out how to fix a broken exhibit or install a temporary exhibit. Visitors rarely see Bob, but they benefit from his expertise.

Larry Griffin, research historian in the exhibit department, will retire November 1, 2002. Larry's personality, hard work and dedication will be sorely missed. He has worked in a number of capacities at the museum and will take with him a wealth of knowledge and professional contacts that cannot be replaced. We will certainly miss Larry's friendly helpful attitude.

In January 2003, Pat Murphy, the regional manager of the Lower Peninsula field sites, will leave the museum. Pat is an educator par excellence. He oversees the operations of

Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, CCC Museum, Mann House, Walker Tavern and the Sanilac Petroglyphs. His enthusiasm for teaching the history of Michigan with hands-on activities will live for generations through the experiences of adult and child visitors.

Last, but not least, Rose Victory, the museum's collections curator, will retire in January 2004. Rose is responsible for the cataloging and care of the museum's 200,000 artifacts. She is just completing the first full inventory of all the artifacts that are entrusted to the museum. Because of her efforts, the museum will be better able to store these artifacts and provide improved access to them for the people of Michigan.

Combined, these four individuals have more than 100 years of service to the Michigan Historical Museum System. We will be sad to see them go but we wish them well in their new endeavors. We will not be able to replace their expertise but we will be able to build on what they have contributed to the preservation and interpretation of the history of the Great Lakes State. I, for one, feel privileged to have worked with these professionals.

Welcome to Our New Friends

Sherry Arends	Daniel P. McCarthy
Lorie & Chuck Barbieri	Russell Magnaghi
Gene Barr	John & Ann McConnell
Jim Blauvelt	Shannon McGreal-Miller
Christina Bradley	Revena McLaughlin
Janet Burch	Ann Miller
Allen & Elaine Cable	Daniel Morey
Joseph & Elizabeth Chapman	Charlotte Mulford
Claire E. Crawford	Sally Pierce
Jean E. Dohms	Lucy Pline
Mary Ann Dolehanty	Mary L. Ploor
Phil & Karen Douglas	Debra Price
Kathy Duquette	Hannah C. & Susan J. Prince
Helen Earley	Michael Rentz
Wendy & Craig Fitzner	Sharon Rich
Jack & Jayne Harris	Christina Riddle
Al Harrison	Ann Rock
Bonnie Hartnett	James Sandberg
Larry, Mary & John Hennessey	Ilene Schechter
Charles W. & Mary Ann Hill	T. M. Sellers
Jeffrey Johnson	Gene Smary
David J. Johnson	Jennifer Such
Margaret & Gerald Kelly	Sandra Swan
Teongok Kim	Daniel & Julie Toshach
Roger F. Lane	Larry J. Wagenaar
David & Denice Leach	Janet Washburn
Deborah Lewis Barosko	Hon. Elizabeth A. Weaver
Patricia R. Longan	Geoff Weller
Dr. LeRoy Mabery	Pamela S. Wilberding
Mary Marazita	Paul Zurawski

From the Friends President

I am excited to report that the Friends of Michigan history is planning a program on the history of baseball, tentatively scheduled just about World Series time this year.

Now the big news. We have secured for that event the appearance of the president of the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. Dale Petroskey, a native Michiganiaan, has agreed to be the featured speaker at the evening event, tentatively scheduled for October 2 in the Michigan Library and Historical Center's Forum Auditorium.

Dale took his current position about two years ago, becoming just the fifth president of the national baseball hall. He has served as a senior vice president for National Geographic Society and worked in the White House as part of the Reagan administration. Early in Dale's career, he worked in the Michigan House Republican press section with Friends of Michigan History board member Dave Machtel.

As I indicated, we are in the planning stages, but the date and time are now firm. I urge you to be a part of this outstanding look at the history of our national pastime. There will be no charge to attend the program. Mark your calendar now!

— Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola

Join the Friends!

If your heritage is important to you, join the Friends of Michigan History today. With your membership, the Friends support the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting the state's past.

Your membership benefits include:

- A 10 percent discount at the Michigan Historical Museum Store
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- *The Museum Insider* newsletter
- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide discounts through the Time Traveler program
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

For more information, telephone (517) 373-1668.

Yes, I want to do my part to preserve Michigan's rich heritage.
Please reserve my membership in the Friends of Michigan History.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime telephone (____) _____

Membership level (check one):

☐ Student \$25 ☐ Family \$35 ☐ Contributing \$60 ☐ Sponsoring \$100

Payment method (check one):

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Friends of Michigan History
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Cardholder's name (please print) _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Complete this form, clip and mail to:

Friends of Michigan History, P.O. Box 70038, Lansing, MI 48907-0038

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The Underground Railroad



On May 7, 2002, the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission began its efforts to preserve, protect and promote the legacy of the Underground Railroad in Michigan. Attending the meeting were (*standing, l-r*) Department of History, Arts and Libraries director Dr. William M. Anderson; Kathleen Blake of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; Freedom Trail commissioners Dr. Weldon E. Petz, Richard J. Strowger, DeWitt S. Dykes Jr. and Michael D. Evans; (*seated, l-r*) Nancy Robertson of the Library of Michigan and Freedom Trail commissioners Mary A. Edmond and Carol E. Mull. Not pictured are Freedom Trail commissioners Christy Coleman, Dr. Harry A. Reed and Margaret McCall Thomas Ward.

Next Friends board meeting: July 11, 2002

**Friends of Michigan History
P.O. Box 70038
Lansing, MI 48907**

Enjoy Summer Fun at the Michigan Historical Museum System

Michigan Historical Museum

*All Michigan, from prehistory to 1975
Lansing*

July 5

Apron Strings: Ties to the Past.

This exhibit of vintage and contemporary aprons will evoke memories of barbecues and butcher shops, finger-painting and family gatherings. From ExhibitsUSA at the museum through August 18, 2002.

July and August

Summer Sizzles Day Camps. Kids ages 9-12 can explore their rich heritage while talking with people who lived through World War II, creating 20th-century crafts, uncovering clues to the Underground Railroad, investigating genealogy and many other intriguing activities. Preregistration required; fee charged.

September 21

Houdini: A Magician Among the Spirits. See a fresh interpretation of Houdini, the renowned escape artist who died on Halloween 1926 in Detroit. Michigan's connection to the world of magic will also be explored in this unique exhibit, which runs through January 26, 2003.

September 24

Future Historians meeting. Group for children in middle school and high school; topic to be announced. 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.

Sanilac Petroglyphs

*Michigan's native peoples
Bad Axe*

August 11

Romancing the Stone. Stories of the petroglyphs. 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Walker Tavern

*Settling Michigan in the 19th-century
Cambridge Junction*

June 27

Erect a Split Fence and Build a Plank Road. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

June 29 and 30

19th-Century Industries Festival. 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

July 11

19th-Century School Lessons. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

July 13

Sauk Trail Day. Celebrate the history of U.S. 12 with antique tractors, storytelling, craft demonstrations and musical performances. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

July 18

Make a Split-Ash Basket. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

July 25

Blue Willow, Transferware, Redware and Chinese Tea. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

August 8

Sketching and Poetry. Make a memory book. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

August 10 and 11

Toledo War Days. Activities, food and music. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

August 15

Create Your Family Tree. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

August 22

Sheep, Cows and Villages. Make your own wooden toys. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

August 29

Croquet and Rounders. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Mann House

*Genteel life in the late 19th-century
Concord*

June 28

Victorian Games. Kids' program. 10:00 A.M. to noon.

July 5

Tea Party for Dolls and Bears. Games and stories. Kids' program. 10:00 A.M. to noon.

July 7

Sunday on the Great Lawn. An afternoon of family fun at the Mann house, lemonade and croquet. 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

July 13

Story Time. Kids' program. 10:00 A.M. to noon.

July 26

Create a Blue Willow Plate. Kids' program. 10:00 A.M. to noon.

August 9

Victorian Paper Dolls and Cut-Paper Shapes. Kids' program. 10:00 A.M. to noon.

August 11

Historic Streets of Concord. Self-guided tour of Hanover Street in Concord, a city of Victorian gems: an architectural features "treasure hunt." The Mann House will be open for tours and refreshments. Family fun. 1:00 to 3:30 P.M.

August 16

Walking Tour of Concord. Kids' program with operas, Wild West shows and mysteries. 10:00 A.M. to noon.

Fort Wilkins

*Frontier life at the U.S. Army post
Copper Harbor*

July 17

Fort Wilkins by Candlelight. Cast a giant shadow as you time-travel through the fort by candlelight for an evening featuring costumed actors, music, storytelling and refreshments. 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.

July 28

The Past in Person: Great Lakes Schooner Captain. Set your sails for Copper Harbor and drop anchor for the costumed portrayal of a Great Lakes schooner captain by musician-storyteller Michael Deren. 7:30 P.M.

August 3 and 4

Civil War Encampment. March to a different drummer as Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery recreates life of the period including artillery and small-arms drills, cooking, soldiers' pastimes and much more. Saturday 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.; Sunday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Michigan Iron Industry Museum

*The people and industry that forged
America's future
Negaunee*

July 9

The Making of Barnes-Hecker: Memories of a Misfortune. Lecture by Sonya Chrisman, Northern Michigan University. 2:00 P.M.

July 13 and 14

Shield of Steel: Iron Ore and the Arsenal of Democracy. This World War II encampment also features costumed interpreters, speakers, dramatic performances and swing dance dem-

onstrations. Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.; Sunday 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

July 23

The Mighty Mackinac Bridge--Its Past, Present and Future. Lecture by Hank Lotoszinski, Mackinac Bridge Authority. 2:00 P.M.

July 30

The Indian Landscape During the Discovery of Michigan Iron Ore. Lecture by John Anderton, Northern Michigan University. 2:00 P.M.

August 6

The Pioneer Development of the Marquette Iron Range. Lecture by Frank Stone, author of *Philo Marshall Everett*. 2:00 P.M.

August 10 and 11

Iron Ore and the Civil War. This Civil War encampment features cannon and small arms demonstrations, period music, speakers, dramatic performances and children's activities. Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.; Sunday 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

August 13

Steel and Skiing Weld Winter Sports. Lecture by Frida Waara, On-Cue Productions. 2:00 P.M.

August 20

Mining, Pasties and Wrestling: The Cornish Immigrant in the U.P. Lecture by Russell M. Magnaghi, Northern Michigan University. 2:00 P.M.

Fayette Historic Townsite

*Life in a 19th-century iron-smelting town
Garden*

August 3

Fayette Heritage Day. Experience the fun of costumed interpreters,

dramatic performances, games, crafts and music of the late 19th century in one of Michigan's most scenic settings. Join in the parade to Fayette's original baseball field and enjoy the national pastime 1880s-style! Noon to 5:00 P.M.

Hartwick Pines Logging Museum

*Michigan's 19th-century lumber boom
Grayling*

July 20 and 21

Woodshaving Days. Two days feature crafts, food and music from the lumbering era in late-19th-century Michigan. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

August 24 and 25

Black Iron Days. Two days feature blacksmithing events, competitions and demonstrations. History comes alive from Michigan's 19th-century lumbering era. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Father Marquette National Memorial

*Native and European cultures meet
St. Ignace*

July 8 through August 21

Drop in for evening, discovery programs every Monday and Wednesday. 7:30 P.M.

July 20 and 21

French Heritage Days: A Living History Experience. Explore Michigan's colonial heritage and watch history come alive as costumed interpreters, actors and musicians recreate life in the Upper Great Lakes region during the French colonial period. Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.; Sunday 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.